



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
675 U.S. Courthouse  
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

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October 20, 2004

TENNESSEE BULLETIN NO. 190-05-1

**SUBJECT: ECS – GUIDELINES FOR DEVELOPING COMPREHENSIVE NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANS (CNMP’S)**

Purpose. To provide information to field personnel regarding guidelines for developing CNMP’s on animal feeding operations.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2005.

1. Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMP’s) will be developed based on the deliverables listed in the current Statement of Work (SOW) for CNMP’s and associated SOW’s for conservation practices available from NRCS’s electronic Field Office Technical Guide <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/efotg/> under Section IV. The CNMP SOW is located under the “Non-practice Statements of Work” folder.
2. AFOPro™ is the approved nutrient management planning tool for developing the nutrient management component of a CNMP in Tennessee. The program is CCE approved, and all upgrades are available at:

[http://www.esri.sc.edu/Projects/usda/application\\_development/afopro.asp](http://www.esri.sc.edu/Projects/usda/application_development/afopro.asp).

The AFOPro software uses the Tennessee-approved CNMP template and Phosphorus Index. A CNMP template (file format .dot) is an add-on in AFOPro and creates a CNMP word document using automatically exported data from AFOPro. Planners can download this template and follow the instructions for use. The template is marked up with comments to guide the planner in completing the CNMP. The Phosphorus Index tool is available so that a field-by-field risk assessment can be completed. Any farm requiring either the general or individual NPDES permit coverage must show such a risk analysis. Additionally, a fertility recommendation tool should be available by the end of September that returns University of Tennessee fertilizer recommendations based on University of Tennessee soil testing procedures and yield inputs. All three of these add-ons should help Tennessee CNMP writers generate a consistent product that meets not only NRCS standards but the state CAFO rules as well. Any needed training regarding use of this software should be coordinated through the Area Conservationists or Resource Conservationists.

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3. CNMP's that meet NRCS FOTG standards can be developed by persons certified to develop CNMP's, usually the local NRCS District Conservationist or a Technical Service Provider (TSP). Qualifications to become certified are listed in NRCS General Manual, Title 180, Part 409, Conservation Planning Policy. Any questions regarding certifications should be directed to your Resource Conservationists. District Conservationists and Soil Conservationists are encouraged to become certified where there is a moderate animal waste workload.
4. When Farm Service Agency (FSA) lending is involved on an expanding or existing animal feeding operation, a CNMP is required and will be developed in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between FSA and NRCS. The MOU has been developed jointly by FSA and NRCS. It establishes the CNMP development process for FSA staff, NRCS staff, and applicants requesting lending. FSA and NRCS staff will use the procedures in the MOU to tell their applicants what the process is to develop a CNMP on their operation.

If you have questions, feel free to call Matt Brown at (615) 277-2540 or Phil Cherry at (615) 277-2576.

/s/

JAMES W. FORD  
State Conservationist